

*An ACCOUNT of the several WORKS and
ALTERATIONS done at the Comptroller's House
since February 1753, (as near as I can remember)
by John Cordwell and Smith-Nathaniel Blagrave,
Carpenters.*

A New Pair of Stairs inclosed from the Ground to the Two Pair of Stairs Floor; those Stairs taken all down and altered, and new Stairs carried from the Two Pair of Stairs to the Top of the Leads, and a Head-Way covered over at the Top.

The Cellar Stairs altered.

All the Floors made good, and Front altered where the old Stairs were.

A new Footman's Closet, with Drawers and Shelves complete.

A new Closet under the Stairs, with Shelves and Pins complete.

Several Bins, Doors, and Alterations in the Cellars.

A new Front to the House next the Yard, with a double wooden Cornice, Dado Front Shutters to run behind the Dado, with all new Sashes and Frames, the Wainscotting and Floors altered and made good.

The Office next *Guildhall* Porch fitted up with Drawers and Shelves, those Drawers and Shelves inclosed with Doors; all the aforesaid Drawers, &c. carried away into the Butler's Rooms.

The said Office altered and partitioned off with Sash Front and Doors, and fitted up again.

The Buttress of *Guildhall* cut away and shored up, to inclose the Cellar Stairs, and new Stairs in the Cellar.

The Octagon Passage, between the Dining Room and Parlour, new sashed, wainscotting, and Cornices repaired; new Cornices, and Scaffolding for the Plasterers and Plumbers to the gable End of the Colonade in the Yard.

To a large new Dresser and Drawers, and new Sink in the Kitchen.

A new Pantry in ditto.

Altering the Door-Ways in the Kitchen several Times; new Sashes and Frames in ditto.

Altering the Cook's Larders several Times:

Making and altering several Times, a lock-up Pantry for Miss Seaman.

Inclosing the Larders and Pantry with Sash-Windows and Doors, and altering them several Times.

Making Sash Sky-Light, and Doors, &c. to inclose the Yard.

Wainscotting,

Wainscotting, and putting in Sashes and Frames in the Landrey.

A new Bog-house in the Yard.

Making Wainscot Drawers, and Deal Shelves and Partitions, and inclosing the same with Doors, in the Landrey.

Altering Coal-Holes and making Cinder-Skreen.

New Sashes and Frames and Shutters, carved Chimney-Piece, and right Wainscot Door, and large Architraves round ditto, and Floor mended, in the Dining Room over the Piazzas in *Guildhall* Yard.

New Sashes and Frames, and making Clothes-Presses on the Great Stairs, and the Wainscotting on the Great Stairs mended, the Floor and Wainscotting at the Foot of the Great Stairs repaired.

New Shutters in the Garrets, and Chests of Drawers mended; Hand-Rails round the Leads at the Top of the House.

New Balustrade and Wood Coping, on the Leads over the Landrey.

A new Lattice Partition a-cross the Leads.

The Head-Way of the Stairs, and Doors and Windows over the Landrey altered several Times.

The Windows and Lining in the Servants Rooms repaired.

The Transum Window-Frames taken out, and Sash Frames put in.

New Guttering and Floors under Leads, and Trunks to convey the Water off the Leads.

Making Hen-Coops, and altering them several Times.

Repairing and mending Napkin-Presses, Tables, Chairs, Picture-Frames, Drawers, new Copper-Lid, cleaning Yards, &c.

Altering and making Lockers in the Windows in several Rooms in the House.

New Shelves, and altering the Wainscotting in the Innet Office.

New Shelves and Wainscotting in the several Closets in the House.

Mahogany Window-Blinds in the Office.

The Passage, from the Kitchen to the Office, wainscotted.

A Partition a-cross the Passage.

The Wainscotting, Settles, Seats, Elbows, Cornices, Head over Seats, repaired and altered several Times in the Yard.

A large Bottle-Rack in the Yard. New Steps in the Office.

New Shelves and Partitions in the several Offices put up and taken down, and altered several Times.

A great many Hinges, Locks, and Fastnings to all the Doors and Shutters.

A great

A great Quantity of lacquered Handles, and *Dutch* Rings to Drawers, &c.

Making Swing Tables with Crane Feet.

With divers other Alterations.

The Comptroller gave Orders himself for the aforesaid Works, and seemed highly delighted at his own Contrivance. It is impossible but he must know, that such continual Alterations must be very expensive; and that the keeping Workmen in a House, for three Years together, must amount to a very considerable Sum. And his Manner of acting, shewed that he was conscious, both of the Expence, and of his being wrong; for he frequently ordered that the Work which was done in his own House, should be charged to some other Place about the *Hall*, and particularly gave Directions that the Drawers and Shelves should be brought Home in the Month of *August*; for then, he said, there were neither a Court of Aldermen, nor any Committees, and therefore they would be less observed. The Expence of one Carpenter for three Years is 124*l.* 16*s.*—and the Comptroller, upon an Average, had seldom less than between three and four Men, one Week with another, and four Men amount to 499*l.* 4*s.* besides Bricklayers, Labourers, and other Artificers; he likewise had an Account of the Works laid before him every Week, and consequently must know, at least, that the Charge would turn out very heavy. By his Directions the Lead was taken and turned up on the Top of his House, in order to fix a large Reservoir, and that would certainly have been done, if it had not been found by Experiment, that the Water would not rise so high; which Jobb would not have cost less than Fifty Pounds. There was no End of his Projects, and the several Matters he had wantonly given Orders for, would, by next *Christmas*, have brought the City three or four Hundred Pounds more in Debt.

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